SG980 -1
2/5/90

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Employment Bulletin

Edward D. DiPrete
Governor

John S. Renza
Director

A Department of Employment and Training Publication

Volume # 2 JANUARY 1990 No. 1

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

We've changed our name, as you'll note on the masthead above...and adopted a new logo!

Legislation enacted in the 1989 session of the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Edward D. DiPrete, changed the name of the Department of Employment Security to the Department of Employment and Training. The law also incorporates the Job Training Partnership Act functions of the Department of Economic Development into the new department. The merger was effective on January 1, 1990.

The name change more accurately reflects our broadened mission and responsibility to our fellow citizens. The Department of Employment and Training will continue to serve Rhode Island employers and job seekers with a full range of employment services through our statewide system of local offices. Further information about the programs and services of the Department will appear in future issues of the Employment Bulletin.

RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - DECEMBER 1989

Overall Rhode Island establishment employment increased in December primarily as a result of pre-holiday hiring in Trade and the settlement of a labor dispute in the Communications segment which more than offset seasonal reductions in Manufacturing. Although the December total represents a monthly job gain of 2,800, it is 1,800 below the December 1988 level of 464,400.

Nonmanufacturing employment advanced by 4,000 in the November-December period to 351,900 mainly due to additional hiring in Trade (+ 2,300) and the settlement of the labor dispute in the Communications segment of Transportation/Public Utilities (+ 1,400). Monthly job gains were also recorded in Government (+ 400) and Services (+ 100). A seasonal decline of 200 occurred in Contract Construction, while employment in Finance/Insurance/Real Estate showed no change from last month. Compared to a year ago, current total nonfactory employment is up by 1,700 jobs.

The number of factory jobs in the state totalled 110,700 in December, reflecting a decrease of 1,200 from last month and a drop of 3,500 from the December 1988 figure. Employment levels in both Durable and Nondurable Goods reflected monthly declines - the former was down 1,100 while the latter decreased by 100. The largest seasonal decreases took place in the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment (-500) and Jewelry-Silverware (-400). Also down over the month were Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals, Electrical Machinery and Plastics Products (-100 each). Employment in Transportation Equipment posted the only monthly gain (+ 100) while the remaining segments - four in Durable Goods and eight in Nondurable Goods were unchanged from November.

The December work week averaged 39.2 hours, down 0.1 of an hour from both last month and a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.25 in December, up 4 cents from November and 40 cents when compared to December 1988.

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in December, rising to 5.1 percent from an estimated 4.5 percent last month. The state's unadjusted unemployment rate stood at 4.8 percent in December, up 0.7 of a percent from the November estimate of 4.1 percent. The number of unemployed rose to 25,500, up 3,400 from last month's estimate of 22,100.

Nationally, the civilian unadjusted unemployment rate decreased from 5.2 percent in November to the December estimate of 5.1 percent. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the December rate was unchanged from last month's estimate of 5.3 percent.

1990 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX RATES

Rhode Island employers will continue to pay unemployment insurance taxes in 1990 based on the same lower tax schedule that took effect in 1989, the third consecutive year that a schedule lower than the maximum allowed by law will be followed.

New employers - those who have not been covered by the Employment Security Act for three full experience years - will be subject to a lower rate effective January 1, 1990. The rate for new employers is 2.0 percent of their taxable payroll, a decrease from last year's rate of 2.2 percent.

The wage base on which Employment Security taxes will be paid during the 1990 tax year is $13,800. The tax schedule to be in effect each year is determined by the financial condition of the Employment Security Fund, as measured by the Reserve Ratio of the Fund as of September 30 of the preceding year.

The Fund reserve balance on September 30, 1989, totalled $293,649,610, an increase of 35.1 million for the year, and the Reserve Ratio equalled 7.39% of the $3,974,516,204 in taxable wages paid by Rhode Island employers during the twelve months ending June 30, 1989. A reserve ratio between 6.5% and 8.5% calls for Tax Schedule F, which contains employer rates ranging from 1.4% to 7.3%.

All tax rates continue to be offset by 0.1% to finance the Job Development Fund which was established on January 1, 1989. Rhode Island employers will be notified of their individual tax rates prior to April 1, 1990.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
24 Mason Street
Providence, R.I. 02903-1082

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use, $300

ZIP + 4 PRESORT
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
PERMIT NO. G-12

Employment and unemployment statistics contained in this report were compiled by THE DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING in cooperation with the BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR. For additional information contact RESEARCH AND STATISTICS AT 277-3706. TDD Voice: 277-3718

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

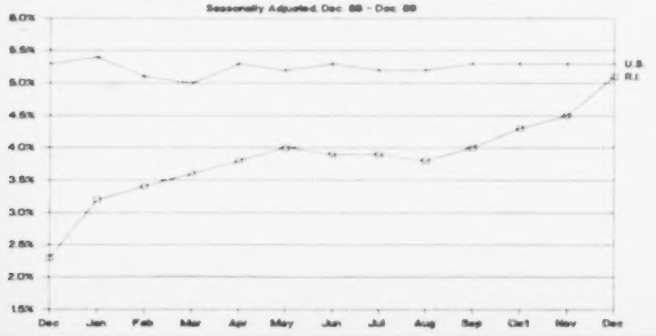
	December 1989	November 1989*	December 1988	
Civilian Labor Force	530.5	532.9	533.9	
Resident Employment	505.0	510.9	523.0	
Unemployment	25.5	22.1	10.9	
Rate (Unadjusted)	4.8	4.1	2.0	
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	5.1	4.5	2.3	Revised*

UNITED STATES

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

	December 1989	November 1989	December 1988
Civilian Labor Force	123,998	124,664	122,120
Resident Employment	117,698	118,168	115,978
Unemployment	6,300	6,495	6,142
Rate (Unadjusted)	5.1	5.2	5.0
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	5.3	5.3	5.3

R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands) Dec 1989	Nov. 1989	Dec. 1988	NET CHANGE FROM Nov 1989	Dec 1988
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	462.6	459.8	464.4	+ 2800	- 1800
MANUFACTURING	110.7	111.9	114.2	- 1200	- 3500
NONMANUFACTURING	351.9	347.9	350.2	+ 4000	+ 1700
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	22.1	22.3	21.8	- 200	+ 300
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.8	14.4*	15.9	+ 1400	- 100
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	108.6	106.3	108.0*	+ 2300	+ 600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	26.6	26.6	26.5	0	+ 100
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	118.3	118.2	117.4	+ 100	+ 900
GOVERNMENT	60.5	60.1	60.6	+ 400	- 100

*Labor Dispute

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

December 1989

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)	PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
ALL MANUFACTURING	110.7	362.60	39.2	9.25
DURABLE GOODS	74.9	358.02	39.0	9.18
LUMBER/FURNITURE	2.9	424.79	38.9	10.92
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.8	485.62	40.2	12.08
PRIMARY METALS	4.3	405.96	39.8	10.20
FABRICATED METALS	8.8	343.39	39.2	8.76
NONELECTRIC MACH.	5.6	463.68	41.4	11.20
ELECTRICAL MACH.	10.7	345.25	39.1	8.83
TRANS. EQUIPMENT	9.2	466.49	39.3	11.87
INSTRUMENTS	4.8	364.17	38.7	9.41
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	21.0	290.22	38.8	7.48
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	5.8	279.75	35.1	7.97
NONDURABLE GOODS	35.8	370.36	39.4	9.40
FOOD-BEVERAGE	3.0	343.04	38.2	8.98
TEXTILES	9.4	327.18	39.9	8.20
APPAREL	2.1	301.95	40.1	7.53
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.6	358.75	40.4	8.88
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.8	481.34	37.4	12.87
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.4	440.16	39.3	11.20
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.5	386.80	40.0	9.67
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	4.8	392.28	40.4	9.71
LEATHER PRODUCTS	2.2	269.47	40.4	6.67

Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded from the Establishment Employment figures. Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month and year figures are REVISED.